

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. ~~An image processing apparatus comprising:~~  
reading means for reading an image recorded on a  
recording material;

acquisition means for acquiring image  
characteristic data which, when an image recorded on  
the recording material was formerly read, was obtained  
based on a result of the former reading and stored in  
storage means;

calculation means which calculates, based on  
image characteristic data obtained from image data  
obtained by the reading of said reading means, and  
image characteristic data acquired by said acquisition  
means, a correction parameter for correcting image  
quality deterioration of the image; and

correction means which corrects, based on the  
correction parameter calculated by said calculation  
means, the image data.

2. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
reading means for reading an image recorded on a  
recording material;

acquisition means for acquiring image  
characteristic data obtained based on a result of reading  
~~when an image recorded on the recording material was~~

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formerly read, and acquiring information for specifying reading conditions in the former reading, the image characteristic data and the information being stored in storage means when the image was formerly read;

calculation means which, based on the information for specifying the reading conditions acquired by said acquisition means, converts at least one of image data obtained by the reading of said reading means and image characteristic data acquired by said acquisition means so that both data each becomes data equal to that obtained by reading an image under similar reading conditions, and thereafter, obtains image characteristic data from the image data, and based on both image characteristic data, calculates a correction parameter for correcting image quality deterioration of the image; and

correction means which, based on the correction parameter calculated by said calculation means, corrects the image data.

3. An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the reading conditions include at least one of an image reading position on the recording material, a spectral sensitivity of said reading means used for reading, and a resolution at which an image is read.

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4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recording material is a photographic film and the storage means is any one of a semiconductor memory mounted to a cartridge in which the photographic film is accommodated, and a magnetic recording layer formed with a magnetic material being applied to the photographic film.

5. An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the recording material is a photographic film and the storage means is any one of a semiconductor memory mounted to a cartridge in which the photographic film is accommodated, and a magnetic recording layer formed with a magnetic material being applied to the photographic film.

6. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image characteristic data is data which represents a predetermined image characteristic amount for each of a fixed number of blocks into which an image is divided, and

said calculation means compares image characteristic data obtained from the image data and image characteristic data acquired by said acquisition

means for each of the blocks and calculates the correction parameter for each of the blocks.

7. An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the image characteristic data is data which represents a predetermined image characteristic amount for each of a fixed number of blocks into which an image is divided, and

said calculation means compares image characteristic data obtained from the image data and image characteristic data acquired by said acquisition means for each of the blocks and calculates the correction parameter for each of the blocks.

8. An image correcting method comprising the steps of:

reading an image recorded on a recording material, obtaining image characteristic data based on a result of the reading, and storing the obtained image characteristic data in storage means,

and thereafter, when an image recorded on the recording material is read,

obtaining image characteristic data from image data obtained by the latter reading;

based on the obtained image characteristic data

and the image characteristic data stored in the storage means, calculating a correction parameter for correcting image quality deterioration of the image; and

correcting the image data based on the calculated correction parameter.

9. An image correcting method comprising the steps of:

effecting first reading for an image recorded on a recording material;

obtaining image characteristic data based on a result of the reading; and

storing, in storage means, the obtained image characteristic data together with information for specifying reading conditions in the first reading,

and thereafter, when second reading is effected for an image recorded on the recording material,

based on the information for specifying reading conditions in the first reading, which is acquired from the storage means, converting at least one of image data obtained by the second reading and the image characteristic data acquired from the storage means so that both data each becomes data equal to that obtained by reading an image under similar reading conditions, and thereafter, obtaining image characteristic data from

the image data;

based on both image characteristic data,  
calculating a correction parameter for correcting image  
quality deterioration of the image; and

correcting the image data based on the calculated  
correction parameter.

10. An image correcting method according to claim 9,  
wherein the reading conditions include at least one of an  
image reading position on the recording material, a  
spectral sensitivity of reading means used for reading,  
and a resolution at which an image is read.

11. An image correcting method according to claim 8,  
wherein the recording material is a photographic film  
and the storage means is any one of a semiconductor  
memory mounted to a cartridge in which the  
photographic film is accommodated, and a magnetic  
recording layer formed with a magnetic material being  
applied to the photographic film.

12. An image correcting method according to claim 9,  
wherein the recording material is a photographic film  
and the storage means is any one of a semiconductor  
memory mounted to a cartridge in which the

photographic film is accommodated, and a magnetic recording layer formed with a magnetic material being applied to the photographic film.

13. An image correcting method according to claim 8, wherein the image characteristic data is data which represents a predetermined image characteristic amount for each of a fixed number of blocks into which an image is divided, and

said calculation step of the correction parameter is provided to compare image characteristic data obtained from the image data and the image characteristic data stored in the storage means for each of the blocks and calculate the correction parameter for each of the blocks.

14. An image correcting method according to claim 9, wherein the image characteristic data is data which represents a predetermined image characteristic amount for each of a fixed number of blocks into which an image is divided, and

said calculation step of the correction parameter is provided to compare the both image characteristic data with each other for each of the blocks and calculate the correction parameter for each of the blocks.